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**Human Rights Council**
**Twenty-fifth session**
Agenda item 3
**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development**

# Information presented by the Greek Human Rights Commission*

## Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the Greek Human Rights Commission**, reproduced below in accordance with rule 7(b) of the rules of procedures described in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, according to which participation of national human rights institutions is to be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005.

* National human rights institution with "A"-status accreditation from the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

** Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

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# Annex

*[English only]*

## Information presented by the Hellenic Republic Greek National Commission for Human Rights

Comments on the Report of the Independent Expert on **the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights**, Dr. Cephas Lumina

The Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR) would like to express its warmest thanks to Dr. Cephas Lumina for the in-depth examination of the situation in Greece on the occasion of his fact finding-mission and for the fruitful and open discussion that he had with GNCHR representatives on that occasion. The GNCHR thanks particularly Dr. Lumina for referring to its Recommendation on "The imperative need to reverse the sharp decline in civil liberties and social rights".

His report presents a true picture of the situation and shows an excellent insight into the socioeconomic and political conditions prevailing in our country. It is very well documented, while his recommendations are very pertinent. Dr. Lumina's mandate is very useful to European countries and CoE and EU institutions, as it can help them in their efforts to find solutions to financial problems which do not undermine human rights, to the benefit of the EU and Europe as a whole.

Consequently, the GNCHR is asking EU countries to rethink their position towards Dr. Lumina's Mandate.

The GNCHR would suggest the following additions to the sources of Dr. Lumina's report:

1. The Report on the ILO High Level Mission to Greece (19-23 September 2011); the Reports of the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) to the International Labour Conferences (ILCs) of 2012, 2013 and 2014 on the application of several ILO Conventions by Greece and the compatibility of austerity measures with these Conventions; the Report of the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association to the ILC of 2013 on the compatibility of austerity measures with ILO Conventions Nos. 87 and 98 (Case 2820); the Report of the ILO Committee on the Application of Standards to the ILC of 2013 on the compatibility of austerity measures with ILO Convention No. 98.

2. The Decision of the European Committee for Social Rights on Complaint 65/2011 (the six other decisions are referred to).

3. The open letters sent to Mr. Barroso and Mr. Draghi by the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), which, together with their attachments, are on the website of the International Coordinating Committee for NHRIs: http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Regional/Europe/Pages/Regional-Documents.aspx and on the website of the Scottish Human Rights Commission, which is chairing the ENNHRI:

http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/international/eurochair.

4. Footnote 13, on page 7 should be complemented as follows: "It should be noted that all European Union institutions, including the European Council and the Council of the EU, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Central Bank, [...] The GNCHR hopes that Dr. Lumina's Report and the recommendations therein included will be duly taken into account by European policy-makers, so that the deepening crisis can be better coped with, while universal and European fundamental values and principles are fully respected and strengthened.

5. Indeed, as the GNCHR is constantly recalling, there is no way out of the socio-economic and political crisis which plagues Europe as a whole, nor any future forth Union, if fundamental civil liberties and social rights are not effectively guaranteed.

Athens, 10 March 2014.